The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN | SEPTEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 8

County Plans for Bike and Pedestrian Safety Focus of Sept. CJCA Meeting

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

Cabin John residents interested in the county's plans to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety are urged to come to the Sept. 25 citizens association meeting to hear county officials explain the goals of the county approved Bicycle Master Plan and a new initiative to create a countywide Pedestrian Master Plan.

The Planning Department's David Anspacher, who served as project manager for the Bicycle Master Plan will be on hand to provide an overview of the plan, which focuses on increasing bicycling rates in the county, improving safety and creating a highly connected, convenient and low-stress bicycling network.

The 378-page plan details more than 1,100 miles of bikeways, of which slightly more than one quarter (281 miles) currently exists. There are 377 miles of bikeways designated as priority construction. Approximately 42 percent of the recommended bike network is seen as being implemented "as opportunities arise" rather than "stand-alone projects." The plan recommends an array of bikeway types, from shared roads, which offer the least separation from traffic to separated, buffered bike lanes and bicycle boulevards, as well as secure bicycle storage facilities at transit stations.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUSAN SHIPP

Kal Shami and daughter of Caraway Rd. bike to the Clara Barton Center for Children.

Anspacher, who supervises the County's transit, pedestrian and Vision Zero planning efforts, will share information from the county's Department of Transportation on their most immediate implementation efforts. When the county council approved the bike plan late last year they stipulated that the county is not guaranteeing all

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BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ELIZABETH ANDRADE

County schools were officially back in session Sept. 3. The Andrade brothers of Cypress Grove Lane, Crisitano, Marcelo and Alejandro, smiled for their mom before heading off to Bannockburn Elementary. For more back to school photos, please see pg 4

CJ BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT by SUSAN SHIPP 2

CJ HIGH SCHOOLER WINS CAR DESIGN SCHOLARHIP 5

For more info, check us out: www.cabinjohn.org

The Village News

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN

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[EDITOR]
Noelle Tower
VNeditorial@gmail.com

[CONTRIBUTORS]
Irena Bojanova, Sarah Cahill, Eric Dinerstein, Rachel Donnan
Amy Elsbree, Mrs. GoodNeighbor, Burr Gray, Jen Jordan
Renee Kotz, Trudy Nicholson, Nancy Russell, Susan Shipp

[BUSINESS MANAGER]
Nalini Kumar | *VNbusinessmanager@gmail.com*

[NEIGHBORLY NEWS]
Judy Brookes | *judy@brookes.com* | 301-263-0388

[FEATURES/NEWS]
VNeditorial@gmail.com

Next Deadline: 12:00 pm, Mon., Oct. 7

Please send comments about *The Village News* to VNeditorial@gmail.com. Story ideas and volunteer writers are always welcome.

Cabin John Citizens Association
www.cabinjohn.org

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 31, Cabin John, MD 20818

CJCA PRESIDENT
Susan Shipp | *jsjshipp3@verizon.net*

BOARD MEMBERS
VP for Activities | Irena Bojanova | *ibojanova@gmail.com*
VP for Advocacy | Greg Pawlson | *gpawlson@gmail.com*
VP for Advocacy | Charlotte Troup-Leighton
VP for Community Outreach | Nancy Russell | *nc3russell@yahoo.com*
VP for Community Outreach | Stephanie Lai
VP for Communications | Marcy Harrison (Directory)
Secretary | Meredith Griggs
Treasurer | Bob Walsh | *rjwalshjr@gmail.com*
Editor, cabinjohn.org | Robin Sidel | *rsidel@gmail.com*

NEXT CJCA MEETING: WED., SEPT. 25 7:30 PM

Plantings at Parkway Access Rd. Lastest Blvd. Beautification Effort

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President



CJ residents Elaine Hornauer, Beverly Sullivan, Scott Hoffman, and Susan Roberts work to beautify MacArthur Blvd.

Another corner of MacArthur Blvd. has been spruced up thanks to the efforts of a small but dedicated group of volunteers.

Several times in the last few months, CJ residents Elaine Hornauer and Beverly Sullivan could be found weeding the green space on either side of the Clara Barton Access Rd. The tall grasses there were overgrown with weeds and the edge of the southern strip had been run over by cars cutting the corner.

With the weeding completed, Elaine and Beverly were joined by Scott Hoffman and Susan Roberts for a planting party August 26 to replant the barren corner and place rocks and snow stakes with pinwheels to keep drivers from running over the new vegetation. Among the plantings, which include donations from Elaine's yard, are a butterfly bush, three Russian Sage, three Black-eyed Susans, and two Loriope. This lovely little garden is a welcome addition to MacArthur Blvd. Beautification Project.

The Cabin John Citizens Association would love to support more planting efforts along MacArthur Blvd. Anyone with hardy and not-too-bushy plants they are willing to donate, should contact Susan Roberts at susanroberts487@gmail.com to see if they might be appropriate for planting in the green space between the road and the bike path. Also let Susan know if you are willing to be part of a future planting party. We definitely could use more volunteers for this ongoing CJCA 100th Anniversary effort. VN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCOTT HOFFMAN

CJCA MEETING: 7:30 PM, WED. SEPT. 25 | CLARA BARTON COMMUNITY CENTER

SEPT MEETING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bikeways in the plan will be built as specified. They also removed language that specified implementation years for each phase of the project

Also joining us for the meeting will be Eli Glazier, project manager for the county's Pedestrian Master Plan, a two-year initiative that is just getting underway. The plan will assess all of the roads in the county based on their levels of "pedestrian comfort," including walkability, safety and accessibility for all. It will also prioritize pedestrian infrastructure and recommend updates to county policies, operational practices, and design standards.

In addition to this meeting, residents can share their thoughts on their pedestrian experiences and what should be included in the master plan by attending one of the community meetings scheduled for October. The meeting closest to Cabin John will be held on Oct. 16 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane.

PEDESTRIAN & BIKER CRASHES RISE

The need for improved pedestrian and bicycle safety measures is acute. The Bethesda Beat reported this summer that "through the first half of the year, 272 pedestrians and bicyclists have been struck by vehicles on roads in Montgomery County – about 1.5 per day, according to county data." This represents an increase of about 14% from the same six months in 2018, when 238 crashes occurred.

According to county data, about 40% of the crashes so far in 2019 have occurred on county roads, while roughly 30% happened on state roads. Another 20% occurred in areas such as driveways, parking lots or alleys and the remaining 10% of crashes were on municipal or other roads.

The media outlet reported six pedestrian fatalities in the first half of 2019. In addition, there have been at least three additional pedestrian fatalities and one bicyclist fatality in the county during July and August, according to police data. VN

Clara Barton Community Center

events & activities

Clara Bark-ton Yappy Hour

OCT 15 5–7 PM

Family friendly social hour for your dog and you
Dog caricatures • dog treats • food & drinks • giveaways
Meet adorable, adoptable foster dogs & maybe lose your heart!
ALL FREE, so leash your dog and join the fun on the blacktop behind CBCC
Register for activity # 74520

Guided Circuit Hikes to CJ Sites
OCT 23 (# 75417) & OCT 26 (#75418)
Visit the Union Arch Bridge, Clara Barton Home, Glen Echo, C&O Canal w/ NPS Ranger Kevin Patti. Meet inside the CBCC at 9:30 AM. Hike ends at 12:30 PM

DYI ART PROJECT CLASS
Grades 2 - 8 5:00 to 6:00 PM
8 Thursdays | OCT 17 - DEC 5
Activity # 75419

CLUB FRIDAY

OCT. 11 | 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Oct 2019 to May 2020 *(meets one Fri. p/mo)* | 3rd through 6th graders
Movies • Sports • Games • DJs • Arts & Crafts
Register for activity # 71754 | $62 for the series

for seniors

ACTIVE AGING WEEK
•SEPT 30- OCT 4
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CLARA BARTON HOUSE TOUR
OCT 1 | Meet at 12:30 PM
Come to CBCC, then ride in 12-seat bus, or drive, to CB House.
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SENIOR SENSATIONS
For ages 55 and up | Mon & Wed | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- **Stay Safe: Resources for home and outdoors** Oct 2 | 12:00 Noon
- **Movie of the month** Oct 4 | 10:30 AM, Oct 23 | 12:00 PM *The Wife* (she wrote the books, he won the prizes)
- **'I Love Lucy 'Day** Oct 14 | 12:00 PM

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM PASSMAN

Bannockburn students Evan Passman, Noah Governski, and Finn Shaut wait for their-bus at MacArthur Blvd/81st street.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL BERGER

A crowd of 18 gathers for the Bannnockburn bus at the corner of Tomlinson Ave. and Tomlinson Terrace



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID WALLACE

Bannockburn kindergarteners, Ezra Kramon and Melanie Wallace, wait for the bus at 78th Street and MacArthur Blvd.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE MARCH

Laurel Haeni (2nd grade) and Georgia Haeni (Clara Barton cardinal) wait at the bus stop in front of Clara Barton.

CJ HIGH SCHOOLER WINS CAR DESIGN CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

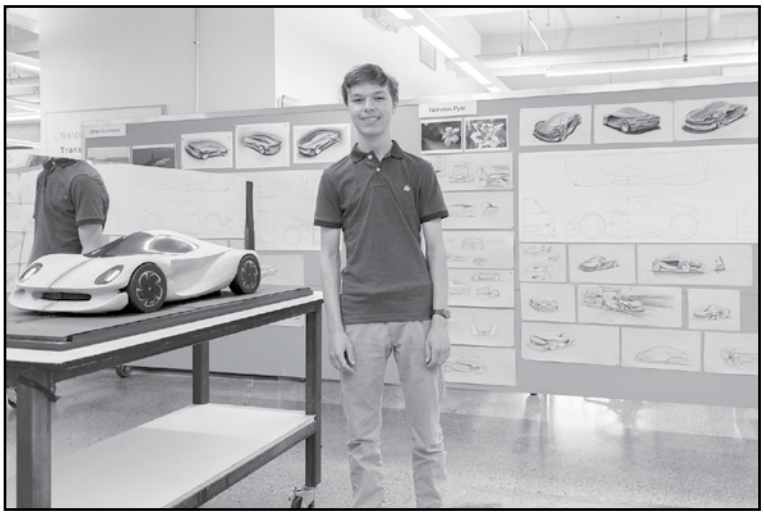


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PYLE FAMILY

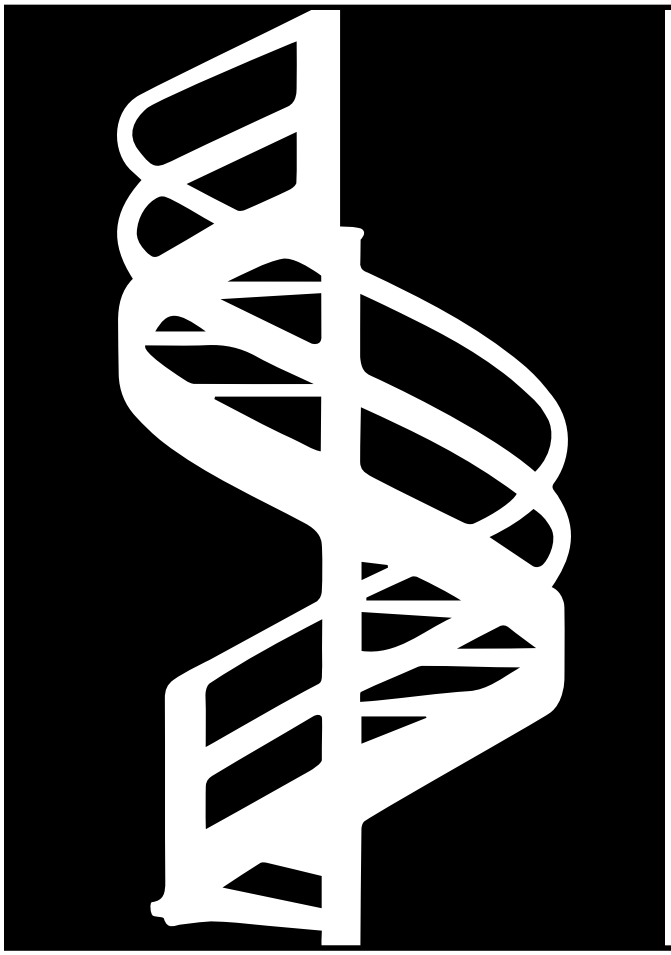
Like many CJ youth, Nicholas Pyle of MacArthur Blvd., a junior at Walt Whitman High School, spent time at summer camp. But at Pyle's camp, the Precollege Summer Experience at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, participants designed a concept car and earned three college credits.

Nicholas attended the automotive design camp after winning one of 15 full scholarships based on his submission envisioning the car he would be driving in 2045. Each entry included a hand-drawn vehicle design showing three views. Throughout the three-week program, professional automotive designers came in each day to explain the automotive design process and give feedback on participants' ideas.

Pyle says he has been drawing cars for a long time and seems to be the only one at Whitman who sketches cars. "Car design has always been an obsession of mine since a young age," said Pyle. "To walk in on the first day and see everyone drawing cars. . . I found my people."

> "To walk in on the first day and see everyone drawing cars. . . I found my people."

The program had you "start off with an inspiration, [which] for me it was a lily flower," explained Pyle. "You don't take it too literally, but the lily petal inspired the abstract shape of my car." He went on to say that one of the "coolest parts was to take our two-dimensional drawings and shape them into 3-D clay models." VN



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Our Backyard Birds Are Made from Bugs: Insect Armageddon-Part II

BY ERIC DINERSTEIN
Contributing Writer

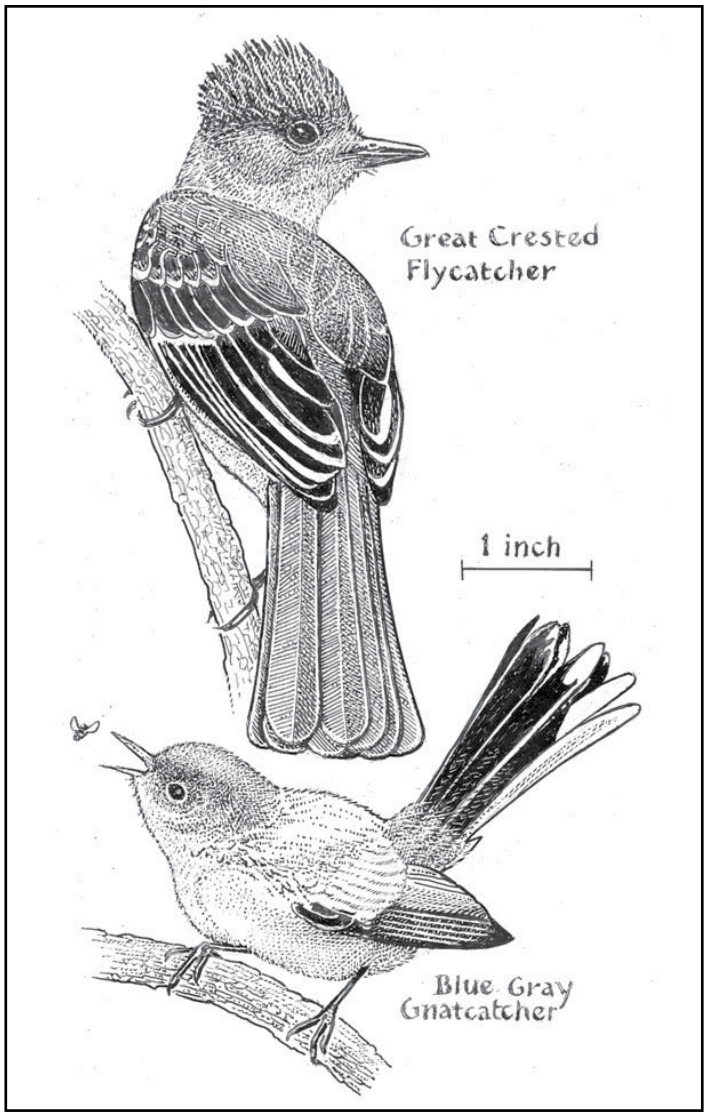
ILLUSTRATION BY TRUDY NICHOLSON
Contributing Artist

Starting on the first of September, I keep a watchful eye on the swollen fruits hanging from the two prized pawpaw trees growing in my backyard forest. The largest and most delicious fruit native to North America is almost ripe, and this year, I should harvest a pawpaw crop exceeding 20 fruits. Out back the other day I started daydreaming of prehistoric giant ground sloths—the original dispersers of pawpaw—roaming along the Potomac River, sniffing the aromatic ripe fruits and bending the slender trees down to grab their custard-like dessert.

My daydream was swiftly interrupted by a small swarm of aggressive mosquitoes that forced me to beat a retreat. What is going on in our backyards? It's September and the mosquitoes are still thick. It's enough to consider not only applying mosquito repellent but also resorting to broadcast spraying to kill the pests.

Please don't. Someday soon, we will be able to release sterile male mosquitoes in our yards or across entire neighborhoods or apply other natural controls to take back our backyards. Or, if you are growing vegetables and tempted to spray for garden pests, or striving for a perfect grass lawn, please, homeowner, put away the Round-Up. There are natural concoctions that work just as well without the indiscriminate killing that is contributing to Insect Armageddon. (*See my article in last month's* Village News.) Besides, persistent indiscriminate spraying also increases the likely evolution of resilience of the heirs of the survivors, making the pesticide less effective should there come a time it is really needed.

Pesticides never target one species, like mosquitoes, but kill almost every bug with which they come in contact, while also spreading the risk of environmentally caused cancers in humans. By trying to control insects with chemical poisons, we are inadvertently compromising the integrity of our local ecosystems. Herbicides add to the problem by sinking into the soil and killing off soil invertebrates that play a critical role in the ecology of soils.



But let's stay above ground and consider the consequences of widespread use of pesticides and herbicides to our most treasured aerial neighbors — the birds that roost in our backyard trees and shrubs and fill our lives with nature's songs. If you only remember one sentence from this article please hold on to this thought:

The birds we love are made from bugs.

OK, American Robins hunt worms but even earthworms disappear after heavy applications of herbicides and the robins may then starve. And just before fall migration, many resident birds switch to eating fruits before departing for warmer climes. But when they head north again, nest, and raise their young, it is the flush of caterpillars and bugs that sustain them. And in turn, they act as our natural pest control agents if we only give them a chance.

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Evidence of their ecological roles echoes and shapes their common names. The start of Spring to me begins with the "wheep" call of the Great-crested Flycatcher singing from high in the treetops in my backyard forest. Flitting up and down the tree trunks and branches are lively Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, flicking their tails as they merrily gobble insects. And it's not just our Great-crested or the deep-in-the-forest Acadian Flycatcher that reflect their roles in their names. There are lots of species in the tropics whose last name is "flycatcher." Besides gnatcatchers, there are groups of birds called bee-eaters and spiderhunters. Even birds without allusion to a bug in their common names share a common food source—the millions of insects that left unchecked would defoliate our forests.

Songbirds do their work in the daytime and our insect-eating bats take the night shift. From beetles to moths to mosquitoes to flies, bats vacuum up the insects flying in the warm night air. Sadly, I now notice fewer and fewer bats flitting about over the 25 years I have lived in Cabin John. My evidence is only anecdotal, but I suspect bats are in decline here just as they are in areas where they have been monitored.

I've gone out back daily to check on the pawpaws. Although delicious, the fruiting season is exceedingly short—a matter of days. If you don't pick the yellow-green fruits just as they begin to turn soft, deer, raccoons, opossums, or squirrels will devour them. The mosquito swarm returns, shortening my inspection. But as I return to the porch I hear the sound of a Carolina Wren calling from a low branch, though with an imperfect "Tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle"—it must be a young bird hatched early in spring or perhaps a fledgling from a second clutch, made possible by the abundance of insects in the yard.

Ecology is about balance. I love the sounds of warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers, gnatcatchers, wrens, and catbirds. Let's let them live their lives—goodness knows they are short enough—without poisoning them and ourselves with pesticides. VN



GARDEN ART IN CABIN JOHN

BY RENEE KOTZ
Regular Contributor



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RENEE KOTZ

A recent Kidpost article in the Washington Post, "National Harbor offers lots of outdoor art you can touch" sparked a thought: What outdoor art does Cabin John offer?

As local artist Steven Weitzman said, "Art is communication. It is to inform and to be fun." Some outdoor art is "obvious, some are hidden, just like the things we all will experience in life." With that mindset, I set out on my own treasure hunt looking for garden décor while on my daily dog walks.

Every time I walk up 79th street, I am greeted by a larger-than-life Panda Jockey. Sean Ruppert purchased the panda from the same company that made the 200 donkeys and elephants for DC's Party Animals street art exhibit in 2002. Ruppert explains: "They offered to make him [the panda] into anything I wanted. We are Irish and I grew up on a thoroughbred horse farm and showed horses all over the country in high school. I asked if I could see him as a leprechaun and a jockey. I was completely torn. . . But I am thrilled with the jockey; that's what my mom would have wanted me to do. Plus his silks are painted in my company colors and the number 13 was my mom's and my lucky number."

Unlike the adorable Panda Jockey, there is art that you could walk by without ever noticing, such as the miniature fairy garden at the entrance of 6525 79th Street. But once you discover the mini container garden, you will find yourself stopping by to peer into their little world, which includes a tiny golden retriever, to see how things are growing.

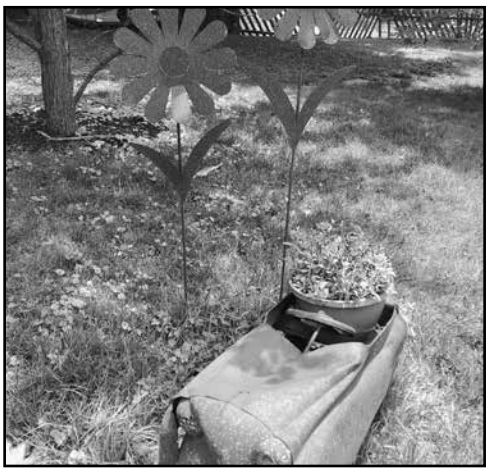
Further along my dog walk on Spring Rd., I encounter a giant sunflower, which the owner purchased at an art fair in Chicago.

One of my all-time favorites is the Smith bears on Riverside Drive. Carved from tree trunks by a chain saw artist in Colorado, the fashionable twin bears exude personality; "They love a good holiday celebration and are particular fans of Christmas and Easter. They are also fond of skiing and skating among other canal-oriented sports!"

But I also wanted to know about art that was not on my routes, or art that I could not see from the road. Thankfully, several people responded to my request for yard art on the Cabin John listserv.

In the "hidden" category is Marcy Harrison's







GARDEN ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8







"Ennui," a crowned lady striking a pose made entirely from rebar and chicken wire. Two decades ago, her friend bought it from a student artist for around $100 at the Walt Whitman High School Art Festival. Unable to figure out a good way to transport it back to California, Marcy found herself with an unexpected hostess gift: a life size statue. Her landscaper weather-proofed it, positioned it in her back yard, and adorned it with costume jewelry and a perfectly fitted crown, providing a little flare to match her "joie de vivre" pose. In my mind, she is CJ's answer to the bronze "Fearless Girl facing down the Wall Street Bull."

Angela Coppala at 7404 Arden street is a self-proclaimed "landscape artist" and her yard is a living exhibit: there is decor hanging from trees, staked into the ground, and peering out from behind bushes. If there is a theme, it would be frogs, but that would be an oversimplification. Her most popular art, especially among kids that stroll by, is something she ordered online as a quick way to add color before spring. But the popularity of the quirky colorful birds earned them a permanent home along her property.

Elaine and Ritch Kepler on MacArthur Blvd are proud of their "rust sculpture" where the weathering process is part of its natural evolution . . . in a way, just like humans. Their backyard boasts a pair of giant rust-orange daisies, a great "rust" (not blue) heron; and, an antique toy pedal-car. While they were driving back from Nova Scotia, Elaine spotted the little car in a junkyard along the road; "what a cute face!" she thought. That spontaneous "hit the brakes honey" purchase is now the most unique flower planter in Cabin John. But the Hope Diamond of the Kepler yard is his great–great grandfathers anvil, the impossibly heavy tool for metal workers. It sits peacefully by their backyard pond, an eternal reminder that Ritch is the descendent of blacksmiths in Germany. To their son, representing the fifth generation, it is a reminder that — like the Christmas fruitcake that everyone likes in theory but are just as happy to pass along — the 200 pound anvil will one day be his!

Like beauty, art is in the eye of the beholder. About 20 years ago, my husband identified a Tyrannosaurus Rex from a twisted ball of cement and metal debris he found on the side of the road. It now sits by our pond. The head actually bobs if pushed, a secret only revealed because it is art you can touch. The National Harbor isn't the only place in Maryland where the outdoor art collection is meant to be conversation starters. Cabin John's vast assortment of yard art reveals something about the residents that make up our wonderful community. You just have to find it. VN

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THE REPAVING SAGA OF LOWER 78TH STREET

BY SUSAN SHIPP
CJCA President

For the vast majority of Cabin John, we've been enjoying our repaved roads for at least a year. But for the folks of lower 78th Street and the 7800-block of Woodrow Place, the county's repaving efforts are a never-ending saga.

The county first started working on their street in the fall of 2017. Curbing and paving problems ensued and all work was stopped due to the need to rebuild the retaining wall that supports the road as it comes down from MacArthur Blvd.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID EPSTEIN

A water main breaks as work is conducted on lower 78th Street, leaving residents without water for 2 days.

After 18 months, the county got its act together and installed the wall and an impressive safety railing in late spring. The curb work and repaving were slated to begin in July. But the project restart date was pushed back six weeks after the July 8 storms washed out roads around the county.

On August 20 the construction crew finally arrived on site and promptly hit a water main installed long ago when apparently pipes did not have to be buried 36 inches below the pavement. It took hours for WSSC to shut off the geyser of water and a full two days for water to be restored. The county is back at work now and, fingers crossed, lower 78th Street and Woodrow Place will finally have their curbs and repaved road by early Fall. VN



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Refreshments will be offered, and small gifts will be handed out to kids. MCPS students can earn Student Service Learning (SSL) credits by participating behind the scenes and as actors in the eerie events

Conjured up by the Friends of Clara Barton Community Center with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, this annual event will usher you straight into the aura of Halloween.

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Team River Runner is a local non-profit which uses kayaking on Potomac River to challenge and rehabilitate wounded and disabled veterans from NIH. The year round program provides healing, community, purpose, and new challenges through adventure and adaptive paddle sports. So, for every client who buys or sells a home with Eric, he will donate a kayak to this campaign in the clients' name.

Eric offers same day showings on any **active** properties in Cabin John

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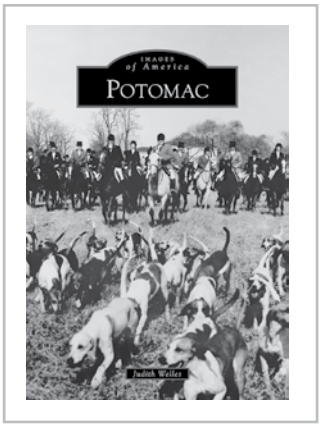
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BY JUDY BROOKES
Regular Contributor

Help us spread the Neighborly News!
Send along your news and announcements about Cabin John residents and clubs to Judy Brookes at ***judy@brookes.com.***

CJ Author Coming Out with New Release on Potomac's History



CJ Historian Judy Welles, author of *Cabin John, Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place*, is coming out with another book. This time her focus is on the history of Potomac. The book, titled *Potomac*, will include never before published photographs that convey the history and beauty of the area.

Arcadia Publishing, the South Carolina publisher of neighborhood, local, and regional U.S. history in pictorial form, has announced a December publishing date. The CJCA is looking forward to having Judy share stories from the book at an upcoming CJCA meeting. VN

COMMUNITY CENTER HOSTING YAPPY HOUR FOR DOGS AND THEIR OWNERS



Join us for…
YAPPY HOUR
October 15
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Community Center

The community center is going to the dogs next month, at least for a couple hours. On Oct. 15. Clara "Barkton" Community Center will host a Yappy Hour from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Center Director Barry Jones says the free event will include dog treats, people food, prizes, and even a character artist to draw pictures of your pooches. There will also be a pet adoption agency on site.

Alpine Veterinary Hospital of MacArthur Blvd. will be there too with giveaways and information about their "fear-free approach" to veterinary medicine. VN

Hancock Civil War String Band

A Narrated Concert and Open House

SAT., OCT. 12, 2019

2:00-3:00 PM - Concert
3:00-5:00 PM - Open House



The Hancock Civil War String Band places songs of the Civil War within a historical narrative that takes you on a musical tour of the terrible conflict. The band has created a narrative that tells the story from before the start of the Civil War, about slavery, Lincoln's statements about what's going to happen in the future, his election, the conduct of the war and the effects of the war. With a letter from Clara Barton or an interesting story the band shows how these Civil War songs still have meaning today.

The group performs with accordion, banjo, guitars, fiddles and string bass. Melodic four part vocal harmonies bring to life the poetic lyrics of this very musical war.

There will be an open house after the free concert. Visitors can explore the house at their own pace and learn about the history of the house and the legacy of its most famous resident, Clara Barton, from park rangers and volunteers. Please call **301-320-1410** for more information.



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CABIN JOHN DOG WALKING Midday walks to keep your pets happy and healthy. Many happy Cabin John and Carderock pet owners and their pets will happily give their recommendations. Call Carolyn 240-204-2953.

CHILD CARE. Licensed Family Day Care since 1991. References available. Call Siew. 301-320-4280.

COMPUTER SERVICES. DC/PC Computer Support offers friendly, personalized computer services to local residents. Services include maintenance, repairs, upgrades, tune-ups, new pc setups, virus and spyware removal, networking and training. Appointments are available mornings, afternoons and evenings. Telephone and e-mail support is also available. To schedule an appointment or learn more about our services email *support@dc-pc.com* or call Jim at 202-841-0873.

PET CARE. YOUR PET WILL THANK YOU! Daily walks, play dates at my home with new friends, overnight stays at my home or yours - fenced-in yard means lots of playtime. I will pick-up and return your pet for play dates! Many neighborhood references. **http://www.licksandleashes.net/** Lauren Nicholas cell 808-286-6556.

SERENITY CIRCLE YOGA is blooming here in Cabin John! A sun filled home studio offering yoga classes, privates and workshops. Learn to meditate, meet my medicinal plants or come for a healing Reiki session. A Spa for the Soul. Contact Sarah 301-580-4088 or *Sarah@SerenityCircleYoga.com*

To place **AN AD** *in the* Village News *classifieds contact Nalini Kumar at* VNbusinessmanager@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



PHOTO COURTESY OF: RENEE KOTZ

Learn about some of the fabulous garden art in Cabin John. Writer Renee Kotz found this giant sunflower on Spring Rd. which the owner purchased at an art fair in Chicago.

(Story and more photos on page 8.)

SEPT 25

CJCA Meeting
Topic: County Master Pedestrian & Bike Plan
7:30 PM
Community Center

OCT 20

CJ Blood Drive
10 AM TO 3 PM
Community Center

27

Haunted House
4 PM TO 6 PM
Community Center

30

CJCA Meeting
7:30 PM
Community Center

NOV 20

CJCA Meeting
7:30 PM
Community Center

28

CJ Turkey Trot
9 AM
CJ Local Park
Community Center